

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Our 40th ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

December Meeting

The December meeting will be a FEST, similar to last year. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by the HCRA and will be prepared to tempt the palate. Jeanette, **KA1MEW** will create these savory tit bits. Members are invited to bring along a piece of Amateur gear and join in on free wheeling discussions. If you need table space for your gear, please contact Bob, **NQ1C**, at 737-8503 to make arrangements.

Club Information on **W1NY-2**

The club's PBBS, **W1NY-2**, will now contain club bulletins and club information. **W1NY-2** is a good place to look to find out about the latest club happenings. Yorke, **K1BXE** will be updating the club information section of the PBBS. If you have any suggestions, please pass them along to Yorke.

Membership Cards Available

The HCRA does not issue membership cards to every member, although if you would like one, they are available upon request. Contact Jeanette, **KA1MEW** to receive a membership card.

First Contact (The Contact You Always Remember)

Yorke K1BXE and Betty, WB1FIQ

"I hear her, I hear her!" **KA1RAH** Larry Meacham heard his XYL Lillian say as he walked into the Ham Shack. As I listened on the land line, the excitement was great for me also! Larry had wanted to contact his daughter and son-in-law in the carribean, but had no success until now.

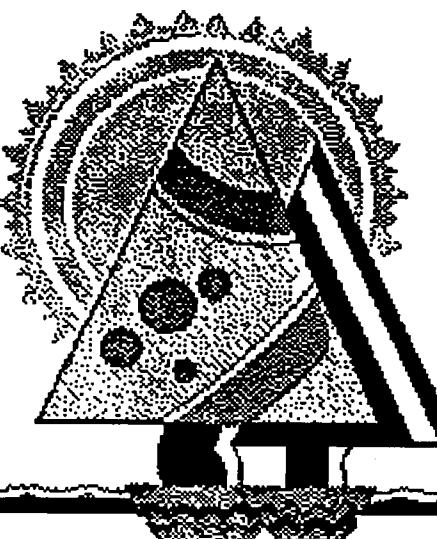
In 1976 Larry took my Novice course at a Minnechaug Regional High School Adult Education class. He passed the code and theory tests and received the call letters **WB1CCS**. Larry never got on the air and his ticket lapsed. Then in 1986, he applied by FCC 610 form to be re-instated. The grace period was passed but he was issued a new call without retesting.

The Meacham's daughter Heather, **PJ8CW (WB1ABF)** and her OM Bill **PJ8JP (W1JP)** were off on a vacation. We had QSO'd regularly when Heather mentioned that she wanted to make contact with her Dad in Monson. As a result of the Novice enrichment program, Larry, a Novice, was able to use phone privileges on 10 meters. During a noontime contact with Heather and Bill on St Eustacia on Election Day, and thinking to be of help, I

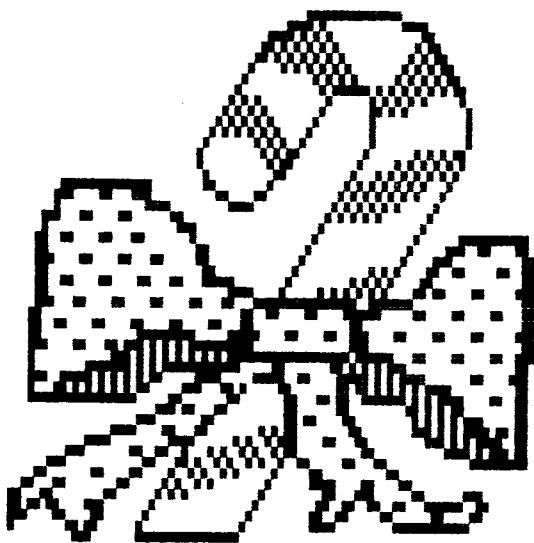
called the Meacham home. Larry was working at the polls but Lillian was happy yet hesitant to turn on the rig just to listen. Being familiar with their rig (we have an identical one) and talking to her step by step, she was finally able to hear Heather talking to another Western Massachusetts station. Just then Larry **KA1RAH** came home for lunch and also heard his daughter. He immediately turned on the heaters, fired up the transmitter, and **PJ8CW**, one of the rarest calls, was his very first contact!

Magmount Wanted

Kevin, **NR1L**, is looking for a 2 meter magmount in good condition. Kevin can be reached on the **AC1T** repeater (449.275), or at (203) 872-6197. Kevin needs a magmount to use his bargain from last month's auction in his car!



NERA HOLIDAY FEST



**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 2
8 PM**

Science Museum A Success

The HCRA's demonstration of amateur radio at the Springfield Science Museum was a big success. An HF station was running continuously, NTS messages were taken, and packet and RTTY stations were operational. A videotape on ATV, and "The New World of Amateur Radio" were shown. Best of all, about 30 people signed up to attend a novice class.

A funny little incident did happen at the start of the demonstration on Saturday. The HF station was operating on 15 meter phone, when a guard came over and told us we were interfering with the PA system in other parts of the museum. Sure enough, the HF station was causing garbled speech to be mixed in with the bird calls down the hall. Changing to a different band solved the problem. Good old RFI strikes again!



Zero Beat is produced on an Apple Macintosh II computer, and printed on an Apple LaserWriter. Articles are entered and edited using MacWrite, and graphics are created and edited using MacPaint, FullPaint, SuperPaint, MacDraw II, and various other graphic programs and utilities. Final page layout is done with Aldus PageMaker. Titles are 16 point Helvetica, and article text is 12 point Garamond. Callsigns are 12 point Garamond Bold. The "Zero Beat" heading is 60 point CalligraphyLaser.

Club Calendar

December	Holiday Fest HCRA/West Exam HCRA/East < No Board Meeting >	December 2 December 7 December 10
January, 1989	HCRA/West Exam VHF Contest Board Meeting	January 4 January 6 January 10
February	HCRA/West Exam Field Day Film Board Meeting	February 1 February 3 February 7
March	HCRA/West Exam < Suggestions Wanted > Board Meeting	March 1 March 3 March 7
April	HCRA/West Exam Sky Warn Board Meeting	April 5 April 7 April 11
May	HCRA/West Exam DX Board Meeting	May 3 May 5 May 9
June	Banquet HCRA/West Exam < No Board Meeting > Field Day	June 2 June 7 June 24-25

HCRA meetings are held at Feeding Hills Congregational Church at 8:00 PM.
Contact Phil Smith, **KA1MP** (413) 562-4731

HCRA/West Exams are held at Agawam High at 7:00 PM sharp.
Contact Jeanette Platanitis, **KA1MEW** (413) 786-1463

HCRA/East Exams are held at Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham MA.
Contact Yorke Phillips, **K1BXE** (413) 566-3010

Local Nets

10 Meter Ragchew Net	Sunday 7:00 PM 28.400
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net	Daily 9:30 PM 146.28/88
80 Meter Ragchew Net	Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.709 Mhz
WMPN	Daily 6:00 PM 3.937
WMSN	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 PM 3.713
WMCWN	Daily 7:00 PM 3.562
WMTN	Monday-Friday 1:00 PM 146.31/91
CPN	Monday-Saturday 6:00 PM 3.965
	Sunday 10:00 AM 3.965
Mt. Tom Information Net	Wednesday 7:30 PM 146.34/94
Mt. Tom Emergency Net	Sunday 8:45 AM 146.34/94
RASON	Daily 9:00 PM 146.13/73
WESCON	Daily 8:30 PM 147.78/18
CN	Daily 7:00 & 10:00 PM 3.640
CSN	Monday-Friday 7:30 PM 3.720

Club Call

Have you ever worked W1NY in a contest? Would you like to **be** W1NY in a contest? Well, it is possible! The Hampden County Radio Association club call, W1NY, is available to all licensed Hams that are members of the HCRA. You may use the call to operate as W1NY from your own home, or a location of your choice. The club will even provide the QSL cards, although you must provide your own postage. Prior approval is required from the Board of Directors. If you have a particular event you would like to operate as W1NY, it is suggested that you apply as soon as possible to reserve the call. Only one station may operate as W1NY at any given time. Contact a member of the board of directors for more information, or for an application.

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P40V Results

The following numbers were correct as of Tuesday, when I left Aruba:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Cntries
160	369	17	45
75	1637	25	95
40	2217	32	125
20	5192	39	167
15	6154	38	158
10	5455	38	160
Total	21024	189	750

Figuring about 7.5% dupes gives about 19,500 Qs, and 2.95 pts/Q gives in the neighborhood of 54 million points.

I don't know if they have been "published" yet, but I've also heard rumors of some tremendous numbers out of **PJ1B** - and I want to publicly congratulate those guys, whoever finishes on top. They did a great job.

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

By the way, if anyone has comments on our operating habits (both good and bad) I would like to hear them. We did try our best to get some complaints that we were going too fast (thats the whole idea, right?), but when someone asked for the call slowly I hope we all responded politely.

Thanks to everybody who worked us.

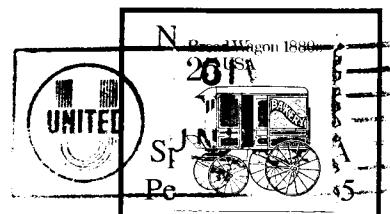
Ron DeBry **WA6DGX** (20 meters, along with **W7WA** and **KE7V**)

(yes, I *volunteered* for 20 - what a war zone - I still have a headache)

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West Springfield MA 01090-0482
Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested



10/89 AC1T

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*If your call is blue,
your dues are due.*